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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2900
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4055
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7047
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2640
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 9862
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 0503
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NOV PARAMARIBO 0140
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0778
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0928
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 1850
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0734
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

UNCLAS LIMA 004289

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/AND, EPSC AND OES/ETC,ENV
BRASILIA FOR ESTH HUB - J STORY
SAN JOSE FOR ESTH HUB - B LINK
USAID FOR LAC, EGAT
USDA/AS/FAA/BAILLEY AND USDA/FAS/ITP/FSTSD/BREHM
USDA/FS FOR MAYHEW

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958:  N/A
TAGS: EAGR SENV ETRD EINV EAID ECON PE
SUBJECT: FOREST TRANSPARENCY WORKSHOP SHOWS OPPORTUNITIES
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¶1.   SUMMARY: USAID, U.S. Forest Service and State sponsored an
Amazon Basin forest transparency workshop in Lima, September 19-22,
¶2006.   Over 100 participants from governments, industry and NGOs
found common ground in identifying solutions to improve forest
governance. Firms and NGO's exhibited services and technologies that
aid log tracking, forest certification and mapping of changes in
forest cover in a novel "Market of Ideas." Bolivian and Peruvian
community-based NGO's formed a plan to exchange best practices; USG,
Tropical Forest Trust and other collaborators began planning for a
new short training course for university faculty in Amazon forestry
management programs. END SUMMARY.

¶2. Over 100 participants from Amazon Basin countries and the U.S.,
Honduras, and Europe met in Lima, Peru from September 19-22, 2006 to
explore techniques and approaches for increasing transparency in the
forest sector. The workshop was implemented through a joint effort
of State's OES Bureau and the Regional Environmental Hub in
Brasilia, USAID, U.S. Forest Service International Programs and the
International Wood Products Association (IWPA). The workshop
brought together multiple stakeholders including government,
industry, local and indigenous community forestry groups,
non-governmental organizations and other private sector interests.
For many participants, this workshop presented the first opportunity
to sit at the table and share experiences as equals with other
stakeholders to forge common interests.

¶3. Participants began by discussing the meaning of forest management
transparency. They collaboratively defined forest transparency as
clear and open processes that require broad stakeholder involvement
and clear rules of engagement to effectively govern management of
forest resources. Through presentations, panel discussions and
break-out sessions, and a novel "Mercado de Ideas" or idea
marketplace, participants exchanged information on ways to address
governance in the forest sector.

¶4. The key objectives achieved included broad stakeholder engagement
on challenges and opportunities for increasing transparency,
providing information on available tools, exchange of ideas and
identification of concrete areas for further collaboration. Some of

the opportunities outlined included development of a supply of timber harvested under sound ecological practices and marketed to socially responsible companies; the availability of new technologies for maintaining chain of custody; and the chance to build local capacity in the countries to sustainably manage their resources. Presentations on CITES and trade agreements as they related to forest transparency elicited some lively discussion on how science and policy intersect.

¶6. The "Mercado de Ideas" provided an opportunity to share approaches to increase forest transparency. Fifteen exhibitors, including Helveta, Tropical Forest Trust, Global Witness, World Wildlife Fund, Winrock, World Resources Institute shared techniques they are implementing internationally to increase forest transparency, including satellite imagery, technologies used for log tracking, forest change detection, certification, and real-time information exchange.

¶7. Chain-of-custody was a high priority for the participants. There was wide agreement on the need for private industry -- loggers, buyers, exporters and importers -- to take a leadership role in chain-of-custody and other issues that relate to legal acquisition even when there is a sufficient regulatory regime. Technological solutions displayed in the Idea Market showed how chain-of-custody solutions can also help both improve business efficiency and inventory species such as mahogany.

¶8. As a result of the workshop, several collaborative efforts began to share best practices. The BOLFOR II project (Bolivian community-based certification) implementers agreed to work with AIDER (a Peruvian NGO working with indigenous people engaged in forest management) to promote an exchange of experiences between Peruvian and Bolivian community forestry enterprises. They will also collaborate to open new market channels by facilitating AIDER participation in ExpoForest 2007, a large forest products trade fair in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Another example involves the USG, Tropical Forest Trust and other collaborators, who have agreed to work together to design and sponsor a new short training course for faculty members of forestry management programs of the Amazon Region.

¶9. Workshop information, presentations, photographs and results will be posted at http://www.fs.fed.us/global/forest_transparen cy. For further information contact Julie Kunen at USAID/LAC, jkunen@usaid.gov, State Environmental Hub Director Jimmy Story at storyjb@state.gov or Liz Mayhew at lmayhew@fs.fed.us.
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